

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 ARA-10 /075 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. CULLUMS
NEA/AFN - MS. WEISLOGEL
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
AF/P- MR. DUMAS
AF/C-MR. HAMILTON

-----120035Z 029313 /75

O 112320Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR
DOD
CIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 11

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
APRIL 11, 1977:

Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE FRENCH
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GOVERNMENT ABOUT ITS DECISION TO AIRLIFT MOROCCAN SUPPLIES
TO ZAIRE AND DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT?

A. YES. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT. THERE IS A
DISTINCTION I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW HERE THOUGH. WE HAVE HAD
CONSULTATIONS IN WHICH WE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON A CONTINUING
BASIS WITH ALL OUR ALLIES WITH INTEREST IN THE AREA AND
THAT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS INCLUDES THE ZAIRIAN SITUATION.
I WON'T GO BEYOND THAT INsofar AS THAT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THERE WAS NO COORDINATION OR PRIOR
PLANNING INVOLVING SOME MASTER PLAN INVOLVING ZAIRE WITH
THE FRENCH OR WITH ANYONE ELSE.

Q. DID THE FRENCH MAKE US AWARE OF THEIR PLANS?

A. THE FRENCH HAVE LET US KNOW WHAT THEY INTEND TO DO.

Q. IN ADVANCE?

A. I DON'T HAVE AN EXACT READOUT ON THAT.

Q. NOW, THE OTHER DAY YOU SAID THAT THE U.S. POSITION
WAS THAT IT HOPED THAT NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT
GET INVOLVED IN ZAIRE. DOES THIS HOLD REGARDING

FRANCE?

A. I THINK THAT THE INTERVENTION OF THE FRENCH AGAIN UNDERSCORES THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION; THAT IT AGAIN DEMONSTRATES THAT IT IS NECESSARY FOR A SOLUTION TO BE FOUND AND HIGHLIGHTS THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NIGERIAN INITIATIVE. AS THE FRENCH HAVE MADE CLEAR AND AS IS CLEAR FROM INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE U.N. CHARTER, ZAIRE HAS A RIGHT WHEN ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IS THREATENED TO REQUEST OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE AND FRANCE HAS A RIGHT TO OFFER IT.

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Q. ON THAT POINT, DO WE REGARD THIS AS RENDERING MOOT THE ZAIRE REQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES FOR COMBAT WEAPONS?

A. NO. FOR COMBAT WEAPONS?

Q. YES.

A. WELL, THE GENERAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE, NO, IT DOESN'T RENDER IT MOOT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A SPECIFIC REACTION TO PRESIDENT MABUTO'S REPORTED NEGATIVE COMMENT ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, ITS HANDS-OFF POLICY?

A. WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT.

Q. COULD YOU RECHECK IF YOU HAD BEEN INFORMED BEFORE-HAND? YOU SEEM TO SAY WE KNEW ABOUT IT.

A. I WILL BE GLAD TO CHECK ON THAT.

Q. CHANGE OF SUBJECT.

A. LET'S JUST FOLLOW THIS. YOU ARE ASKING ME WHETHER THEY TOLD US?

Q. YOU WERE TOLD IN ADVANCE.

A. BEFORE THE PLANES TOOK OFF.

Q. YES.

Q. WHETHER IT IS A MATTER OF PROPER INTERNATIONAL LAW OR NOT, I DON'T THINK YOU QUITE ANSWERED THE QUESTION. IN VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES' POLICY OF SEEKING AFRICAN SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICAN PROBLEMS, DOES THE UNITED STATES

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APPROVE OF THE FRENCH INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THIS MATTER BEYOND WHAT I HAVE SAID. OUR POSITION ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS IS WELL KNOWN. BUT, INsofar AS ANY FURTHER COMMENT ON THE FRENCH, I THINK THAT IS AS FAR AS I WILL GO.

Q. THEN I SUPPOSE YOU WOULD GIVE ME THE SAME ANSWER IF I ASKED YOU IF YOU LOOK WITH FAVOR ON DIRECT MOROCCAN INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE.

A. AGAIN THAT IS A MATTER BETWEEN MOROCCO AND ZAIRE.

Q. BUT YOU SEE MOROCCO AS AN AFRICAN STATE.

A. I DO SEE IT AS AN AFRICAN STATE, BUT BEYOND THAT, THAT IS A QUESTION AGAIN FOR MOROCCO AND ZAIRE AND MOROCCO'S REQUEST FOR PRESERVATION OF ITS BORDERS AND INTEGRITY OF ITS COUNTRY.

Q. IS IT THEN A QUESTION FOR ANGOLA TO HAVE CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA?

A. AGAIN THE QUESTION OF CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA HAS BEEN ONE ON WHICH WE HAVE ADDRESSED OURSELVES A NUMBER OF TIMES AND WE DO NOT FIND IT A USEFUL THING.

Q. BUT YOU WON'T APPLY THAT SAME CRITERIA TO MOROCCANS IN ZAIRE?

A. I AM GOING TO STAND ON WHAT I SAID.

Q. DO YOU STILL SAY THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE FOR THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES TO DECIDE?

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A. I THINK THAT THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF AFRICA ARE FOR THE AFRICANS TO DECIDE.

Q. YOU'VE TALKED ABOUT THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NIGERIAN INTERVENTION. WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

A. THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF WHOSE INTERVENTION?

Q. OF THE NIGERIAN INTERVENTION.

A. THEY ARE CARRYING ON CONVERSATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF NATIONS IN THE AREA THROUGH THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC

PROCESS.

Q. WELL, WHAT MAKES IT SO CRITICALLY IMPORTANT?

A. BECAUSE IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE ABLE TO COME TO A RESOLUTION THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS RATHER THAN TO SEEK A RESOLUTION ON THE BATTLEGROUND, AND WHAT THEY'RE SEEKING IS A DIPLOMATIC RESOLUTION OF WHAT IS AT THIS POINT AN INVASION OF ZAIRE.

Q. ARE THE NIGERIANS KEEPING US INFORMED OF WHAT THEY'RE DOING?

A. YES, THEY ARE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE --

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THEY'RE DOING THERE?

A. NO. I THINK THAT'S FOR THE NIGERIANS TO GO INTO

Q. IS MOROCCO ONE OF THE ALLIES YOU CONSULTED?

A. I THINK, AGAIN, AS TO WHO THEY'VE CONSULTED -- YOU'RE UNCLASSIFIED

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ASKING ME WHO THE NIGERIANS HAVE CONSULTED?

Q. NO. WHO YOU HAVE CONSULTED.

A. THAT WE HAVE CONSULTED?

Q. YOU SAID IN THE BEGINNING THAT YOU HAVE BEEN CONSULTING YOUR ALLIES --

A. AS I SAID BEFORE, WE DID NOT HAVE PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MOROCCANS ABOUT THEIR DECISION TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF ZAIRE.

Q. I SUPPOSE EGYPT IS SENDING TROOPS OR OTHER HELP TO ZAIRE. WOULD YOU REGARD THE TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRESIDENT SADAT AS CONSULTATION ON THIS

MATTER?

A. WELL, I MEAN THERE ARE TWO THINGS ON THIS. THE FIRST IS THAT YOU ASKED ME A QUESTION WHICH IS IFFY AND SPECULATIVE, AND I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO THAT PART OF IT.

INSOFAR AS THE DISCUSSION THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS CONCERNED, AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT BEFORE THOSE DISCUSSIONS COVERED A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES. THEY DID NOT SPEAK

OF SPECIFIC MILITARY ACTION BY EGYPT IN ANY WAY IN THE CONTINENT AND WHAT WAS MADE CLEAR WAS OUR MUTUAL HOPE THAT PEACE COULD BE FOUND NOT ONLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT IN THE ENTIRE CONTINENT, OF WHICH EGYPT FINDS ITSELF AND FEELS ITSELF TO BE A MAJOR PART.

Q. I UNDERSTAND MOST OF THE ARMS OF THE AMERICANS ARE FROM THE UNITED STATES -- I MEAN U.S.-MADE ARMS. IS THERE ANY RESTRICTION ATTACHED TO THE USE OF THESE ARMS OUTSIDE OF MOROCCO?
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A. MOROCCO?

Q. YES.

A. WELL, FIRST, I CATEGORICALLY REJECT THE NOTION THAT AMERICAN ARMS ARE BEING USED BY THE MOROCCANS WHO ARE IN ZAIRE -- FIRST.

SECOND, AS I SAID LAST WEEK -- I BELIEVE FRIDAY -- THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS, BOTH BY LAW AND AGREEMENT, BETWEEN MOROCCO AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE USE OF AMERICAN WEAPONS OUTSIDE MOROCCO'S BORDERS.

Q. HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT AMERICAN ARMS ARE NOW BEING USED BY THE MOROCCANS?

A. AGAIN, OUR OWN REPORTS.

Q. WHAT ARE THEY?

A. THEY'RE, AGAIN, FROM OUR EMBASSY IN ZAIRE AND FROM OTHER REPORTS THAT WE HAVE.

Q. WHAT ARMS ARE THE MOROCCANS USING?

A. OH, I'M SORRY. I DON'T HAVE A READOUT ON WHAT ARMS ARE BEING USED, EXCEPT IN THE NEGATIVE. I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE AFFIRMATIVE ON THAT.

Q. BUT YOU CAN GIVE US --

A. YOU MIGHT ASK THE MOROCCAN EMBASSY TO HELP YOU ON THAT, AND I'M NOT BEING FACETIOUS. I JUST SIMPLY --

Q. DO YOU CATEGORICALLY REJECT THAT THERE ARE ANY
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AMERICAN ARMS BEING USED BY THE MOROCCANS?

A. I'M CATEGORICALLY REJECTING THAT THEY'RE USING AMERICAN ARMS.

Q. IF IT'S OUR DESIRE TO HAVE AFRICANS SOLVE AFRICAN PROBLEMS AND IF THE MOROCCANS ARE LEGITIMATELY GOING TO ZAIRE TO HELP OUT A FELLOW AFRICAN COUNTRY, WHY WOULD WE OBJECT TO THE USE OF AMERICAN ARMS IN THIS CASE?

A. TO BEGIN WITH, YOU'RE SAYING I'M SAYING SOMETHING I DIDN'T SAY. I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW AND I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO IT AS TO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THEY REQUESTED IT. I'M SIMPLY SAYING THEY HAVEN'T REQUESTED IT AND THEY'RE NOT USING IT -- I'M SORRY: AMERICAN ARMS IN ZAIRE.

Q. THEY WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST THE USE OF AMERICAN ARMS -- OF ALL ARMS THAT WE HAD GIVEN THEM, THEY'D HAVE TO REQUEST?

A. THEY WOULD HAVE TO REQUEST THE USE OF IT.

Q. AND WOULD WE GRANT IT?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO A QUESTION WHICH HASN'T ARISEN. THAT IS A QUESTION THAT WOULD INVOLVE A GREAT DEAL OF CONSULTATION, AS YOU KNOW.

Q. DO YOU STILL HAVE NO INDICATION AS TO WHO THE INVADING FORCE IS, APART FROM THE KATANGAN GENDARMES?

A. I HAVE NOTHING NEW ON THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON THE SITUATION ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GROUND? IT SEEMS TO BE IN A STALEMATE FOR THE LAST WEEK, STAGNANT.

A. WE HAVE NOTHING BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE SEEING IN PRESS REPORTS. IT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY STATIC FOR SOME DAYS.

Q. WOULD YOU SAY THAT THAT SECTION OF SHABA PROVINCE THAT'S NOW UNDER CONTROL OF THE KATANGAN GENDARMERIE IS, DE FACTO, SECEDED FROM CENTRAL CONTROL OF KINSHASA OR IS IT UNDER CIVILIAN CONTROL OF AN OUTSIDE FORCE NOW? DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT THAT?

A. WELL, WE WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE DE FACTO.

Q. YOU WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE IT, BUT HOW WOULD YOU

DESCRIBE IT?

A. I WOULDN'T DESCRIBE IT.

Q. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THEY'VE BEEN SETTING UP A CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE REST OF IT.

A. I'VE SEEN THAT. I HAVE NO DESCRIPTION ON THAT.

Q. YOU CAN'T CONFIRM THAT?

A. NO, I CANNOT.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SEEKING TO CONTACT SOME FRENCH MERCENARIES TO GO INTO ZAIRE AND HELP THE GOVERNMENT THERE?

A. I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ON THAT. I KNOW OF NOTHING ALONG THAT LINE.

Q. A FORMER OFFICIAL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE UNCLASSIFIED

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AGENCY ASSERTED IN A LETTER OF RESIGNATION, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN SUNDAY'S WASHINGTON POST, THAT SUCH IS THE CASE.

A. THAT'S A VERY INTERESTING LETTER, AND I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT ASK THE CIA, BUT I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ON IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE CHINESE INTERVENTION --

A. NO.

Q. -- OR THE SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE?

A. NO.

Q. I REALIZE THAT IT WOULD BE MAYBE MORE APPROPRIATE TO ADDRESS THIS TO THE WHITE HOUSE, BUT SINCE I TAKE IT

THAT THERE IS A UNIFIED AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY MAYBE YOU CAN ENLIGHTEN ME. (LAUGHTER.)

THE PRESIDENT, ON FRIDAY, AGAIN REFERRED TO THE QUESTION OF BORDERS. OUT OF HIS OWN ACCORD HE MENTIONED BORDERS THAT ISRAEL CAN DEFEND. AND DOES THIS IMPLY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTS THE ISRAELI CONTENTION THAT THE 1967 BORDERS WERE NOT DEFENSIBLE?

A. WHAT IT IMPLIES IS THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING A NUMBER OF IDEAS

DISCUSSED IN WHAT AMOUNTS TO A VERY LARGE WAVE OF DISCUSSIONS THAT ARE GOING ON HERE IN WASHINGTON WITH LEADERS FROM THE AREA AND THAT WHILE THAT PROCESS IS GOING ON HE FINDS IT USEFUL TO MENTION FROM TIME TO TIME SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES THAT DO STAND IN THE WAY OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND THIS IS THE REASON FOR A GOOD BIT OF THE THINGS THAT HE SAYS, AND I THINK HE'S UNCLASSIFIED

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MADE THAT VERY CLEAR.

Q. IS, OR WILL, AN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE SITTING IN ON THE TALKS ON RHODESIA THAT THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY WILL HAVE SOON IN CAPE TOWN?

A. THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY'S -- IN CAPE TOWN IT-SELF?

Q. YES.

A. I DON'T KNOW, BUT THIS IS HIS MISSION.

Q. YES.

A. WE EXPECT A REPORT ON IT AT THE END.

Q. I SEE.

A. I DON'T KNOW IF THAT IMPLIES THAT WE NEVER WOULD SIT IN OR NOT. IT WOULD NOT BE JUST THE NORMAL THING THAT WE WOULD. THIS IS HIS MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA.

Q. WHAT I'M SAYING IS YOU DON'T HAVE SOMEONE ELSE THERE AS THERE PREVIOUSLY WAS.

A. NO. WHAT I'M JUST SAYING IS I DON'T KNOW.

Q. COULD YOU FIND THAT OUT?

A. I'LL ASK.

Q. CAN I GO BACK TO ISRAEL? NOW THAT MR. PERES, THE DEFENSE MINISTER, HAS TAKEN OVER AS THE CHIEF OF THE LABOR PARTY'S LIST IN THEIR ELECTION AND, AS HIGHLY PROBABLE, IS THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER, DOES THE UNITED UNCLASSIFIED

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STATES ENVISION A MEETING WITH MR. PERES SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH WERE HELD IN THE PAST WITH HIS PREDECESSOR IN AN ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT AND TALK OUT THIS PEACE PROCE-

SS IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. TWO THINGS HERE FIRST.

Q. YES.

A. I MEAN THE FIRST IS THAT INSOFAR AS THE WORKINGS OF THE ISRAELI DEMOCRATIC PROCESS ARE CONCERNED, WE DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT. I'M NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON WHO THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER IS GOING TO BE OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT.

INSOFAR AS YOUR QUESTION IS DO WE HAVE ANY PLANS NOW FOR A MEETING WITH WHOMEVER THE NEXT ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MAY BE, THE ANSWER IS I KNOW OF NO PLANS AT THIS POINT FOR SUCH CONSULTATION.

Q. THE SAME RELATED SUBJECT: MR. ASCHER VAN NAO, WHO IS MR. PERES' POLITICAL ADVISER, IS EXPECTED IN WASHINGTON TODAY. CAN YOU SAY WHO HE'S GOING TO MEET, AND WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS HE'S GOING TO HAVE?

A. NO.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM HE'S COMING?

A. NO. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT. YOU ARE INFORMING ME OF SOMETHING.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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